

Claims

1. According to the present invention, there is provided a process for
5 converting animal fats and/or other feedstocks into gas oil fuel including the steps of:

introducing material including the animal fats into a still pot in the form of
liquor,

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extracting a volume of material from the still pot,

heating the extracted material to a cracking temperature,

15 reintroducing the extracted material back into the still pot,

separating the lighter molecular weight compounds from the cracked
material into a small fraction of volatile light ends and a second mixture of
gas oil fuel in a distillation column

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collecting the second mixture of gas oil fuel by means of a condenser.

2. A process according to claim 1 wherein the extracted material is
thermally cracked under pressure in a pyrolysis vessel to a mixture of
25 lighter molecular weight gas compounds, before being reintroduced under
pressure into the still pot

3. A process according to claim 1 wherein a volume of liquid is
extracted from the still pot vessel, heated to above the cracking temperature

while being kept at a sufficiently high pressure to remain in a balanced gas/fluid state and injecting the gas back into the still pot beneath the surface level of the liquid in the still pot.

- 5 4. A process according to any previous claim wherein the extracted material is reintroducing into the still pot below the level of liquor in the still pot.
- 10 5. A process according to either previous claim wherein the feedstock is fed from a storage tank to a heating device prior to being fed into the still pot vessel.